H Pettigrew

Minutes of the

Meeting of the Executive Committee

of the

World Council of Churches

12 - 13 September 1995

**Meeting held at the Ecumenical Centre,
Geneva, Switzerland**

150 route de Ferney
CH-1211 Geneva 2

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

EX2/95

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World Council of Churches

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Ecumenical Centre, Geneva, Switzerland

12-13 September 1995

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Worship

Morning worship took place in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre. Liturgies were arranged by Rev. Terry MacArthur.

B. Call to Order and Welcome

After calling the meeting to order at 9.00 hrs on Tuesday 12 September 1995, the Moderator greeted the members of the Executive Committee and staff present.

The General Secretary made special reference to the election of the Moderator, His Holiness Aram I, as Catholicos of Cilicia of the Armenian Church, on 28 June. This was the first opportunity members of the Executive Committee had had to express to him their joy and good wishes. On behalf of the Executive, Ms Rantakari congratulated His Holiness and expressed appreciation for his guidance and leadership of the Executive and Central Committees in the period since Canberra; they were particularly grateful that he intended to continue in his role as Moderator until the Eighth Assembly.

C. Roll Call

The General Secretary called the roll, noting apologies for absence from Bishop Leslie Boseto, who had had an accident and was not well enough to travel to Geneva; a special word of greeting would be sent to him on behalf of members of the Executive. Apologies were also received from Rev. Eunice Santana and Pope Shenouda, and from the following members: Ms Marion Best, Metropolitan Daniel, Ms Béatrice Danquah, Bishop Okullu, and Metropolitan Kirill.

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Geneva on 7-11 February 1995 were approved as circulated.

E. Agenda and Timetable

The General Secretary presented the draft agenda for the meeting, and referred to the items that would be dealt with in the Sub-committees. He reminded members that, as agreed, an opportunity had been provided for an informal conversation on the issue of homosexuality.

2. MODERATOR'S REPORT TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Moderator explained that his report was in two parts, the first dealing with the significant aspects and important dimensions of the work of the Executive Committee in the period since February 1994, while the second part offered a specific perspective on Gospel and Cultures. The report identified a number of areas in the context of the growing crisis of cultures, and pointed to three specific roles of the Gospel.

It was noted that members of Central Committee would receive copies of the report beforehand, and it was hoped that this would help them enter into a full discussion.

Responding to some of the points raised in the ensuing discussion, the Moderator explained that the issues presented in his report were not theological but existential ones that were emerging from his own life in his church. Culture had played an important role in the life of his church, sometimes in negative terms but more often in positive terms.

He believed that relativity was the negation of Gospel; the Gospel cannot accept relativity. On the question of truth, what is the basis of truth? The Gospel is truth but it is expressed in so many different ways in our churches that it has at times actually created division within the church. Although he believed the Gospel to be a liberating factor in the midst of cultures, in some cultures the Gospel itself needs to be liberated because it has been confined within a specific context. These were all questions to be wrestled with.

3. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The General Secretary indicated that the first part of his report was a commentary from the perspective of staff on the work of the Council in the past eighteen months, especially in terms of strengthening relationships and coordinating programmes. The major part of the report focused on the Common Understanding and Vision process which was one of the major preoccupations of a number of staff colleagues. He had concentrated on the dimension of "the oneness of the ecumenical movement", in an effort to define how the WCC itself is related to other partners in the ecumenical movement. He included some proposals about what the consequences might be if the WCC assumed more intentionally the role of maintaining the coherence and wholeness of the ecumenical movement.

Among points raised in discussion, Dr Nababan asked whether there was a way to inform Central Committee of areas where we have failed by not meeting the expectations of particular programmes. The General Secretary responded that some attention was given to this among staff and he was encouraged to know that the governing bodies did not only wish to hear reports of where we had been successful in our efforts. He pointed to the fact that thus far staff had not succeeded in giving shape to the Programme to Overcome Violence and had therefore asked for a special Hearing to share their perplexity and seek some guidance in moving beyond the current impasse.

4. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

A. A series of documents containing details of Applications for Membership; Membership of Central Committee; Membership of Commissions, Committees and Boards, were introduced and opportunity given for comment; they were then referred to the Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations (see report, p.28ff).

B. Criteria for Membership

A Sub-committee was appointed by the Executive at its meeting in Bucharest in September 1994 to review existing criteria for membership, explore the possibility of stating the meaning of membership in the form of a short document, and to clarify forms of relating to the WCC other than through formal membership. Members were: Dr Nababan (Moderator), and Mr Briggs from the Executive, and Ms R. Jarjour, Ms N. Kathindi, Bishop Nifon and Ms K. Thompson from Central

Committee. Ms Kathindi was unable to accept; Ms R. Abraham accepted to serve in her place but was unable to attend the meetings.

Mr John Briggs reported on the Sub-committee's work and presented a paper on the Meaning of Membership. This, together with a text reviewing the Rules on Membership and on Relationships with Partner Ecumenical Bodies (including proposed changes in the Rules), was referred to the Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations (see report, p.30).

Bishop Talbert felt that the call to financial commitment required strengthening: member churches must take a full part in the life and work of the Council. Ms Rantakari noted that the Finance Sub-committee had also looked at the matter after receiving a report from OICD that 166 member churches of 330 had not contributed financially to the WCC in 1994.

Dr Kässmann was concerned about the implications of this for the Common Understanding and Vision (CUV) process, and in relation to the mutual accountability of the member churches. The General Secretary explained that, after consideration in the Sub-committee, the matter would be referred to the Committee on the General Secretariat to formulate recommendations.

C. Note was taken of the list of invitees to the CUV Consultation planned for December which was expected to start the process of preparing documents that it was hoped would be received by the assembly; these would be sent to member churches for comment prior to a full discussion in Central Committee in 1996.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

Rev. Dwain Epps introduced a background note on public issues which showed the extraordinary breadth of concerns in which the Council was involved. He pointed out a number of cases where the Council had not been successful in helping to resolve conflicts or correct situations of abuse of human rights. More and more requests for assistance were being received from churches and it was increasingly difficult to meet all the expectations.

The Moderator raised the oft repeated question: What can we do as World Council, as the ecumenical movement, besides producing public statements? He had formulated some of these considerations as follows:

1) What can we do as WCC towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts?
2) Can we initiate new forms of ecumenical dialogue in situations of conflict?
3) Can we develop a sense of mutual responsibility and accountability among the member churches that are involved in conflicts?
4) What can the WCC do in a situation where one of its member churches is part of a conflict situation?

There were no easy answers, but the Moderator suggested that these major concerns be kept on the agenda in the context of public issues.

It was proposed that the Executive recommend to Central Committee that public statements be prepared on a) nuclear testing and b) the status of Jerusalem. Some action might also be considered regarding the continuing conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Central Committee would be invited to make additional proposals for consideration by the Public Issues Committee.

At the request of Fr Kishkovsky, the General Secretary reported on a consultation of representatives of member churches that took place in August concerning the former Yugoslavia. Unfortunately the two representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church were prevented from attending. The consultation helped us to recognise that our task at this point could not and should not be interpreted as trying to resolve basic problems of political ethics; our calling was rather to try and bring a reconciling influence to bear.

The consultation had also begun to consider what the Council's responses might be to the persistence of this tragic conflict. Rather than suggesting that Central Committee prepare a public statement - when we have nothing new to say - it was felt that many points could be included in a minute specifying an agenda of items on which we need to work further in response to the conflict, together with member churches in the region and beyond.

Mr Epps made a number of additional remarks on the situation as it was developing at the time. The hope remained that some dialogue could take place with the Serbian Orthodox Church, and that some bilateral dialogue might be facilitated between the SOC and churches in the region that have raised critical questions.

The Executive Committee **agreed** to recommend that Central Committee take action as proposed.

6. CENTRAL COMMITTEE - PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The General Secretary presented the draft agenda and timetable, drawing attention to some specific items. Following the plenary on Global Governance, a Reception was scheduled for the evening of 20 September to which senior representatives of UN organisations and heads of diplomatic representations in Geneva had been invited. Members of Central Committee would be urged to meet with representatives of their own country.

It was **agreed** to recommend the agenda to Central Committee for approval.

7. EIGHTH ASSEMBLY

Dr Wesley Ariarajah highlighted some specific points that were included in a detailed document on proposed Seat Allocations for the Eighth Assembly. He explained that this had been compiled as a result of earlier discussions in the Executive, and was to go from the Executive to Central Committee for action. The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Rev. Nélida Ritchie presented the **report of the Programme Sub-committee**. With some amendments in wording, the Sub-committee recommended and the Executive Committee **agreed**

> *that the document on Allocation of Seats for Delegates to the Eighth Assembly, as amended, be brought to the Central Committee as the recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding this allocation.*

Concern was expressed by the Sub-committee that, while the age of youth was 18-30 for delegates, this might not be acceptable in relation to election of youth to the Central Committee (because they would be over 30 by the time of the Ninth Assembly). It was important that this matter be clarified now so that the churches, in nominating youth delegates, would be aware of the possibility for them to serve on Central Committee.

Dr Kässmann recalled the painful experience in Canberra and urged that the matter be clarified as a matter of urgency. Of the youth elected to Central Committee at Vancouver, only two had still been under the age of 30 at the time of the Canberra Assembly.

Dr Ariarajah said the intention was to provoke debate at Central Committee and lead to a clear decision on the issue.

Secondly, the Sub-committee discussed the concern that had been expressed about delegates "committing" their churches. It recommended that the wording be retained with the understanding that it would be accepted to the extent to which delegates were able to commit their churches.

Dr Ariarajah pointed out that the member church statistics were still subject to correction by the churches.

8. STRUCTURE REVIEW AND CHANGES IN THE RULES

Prof. Anna-Marie Aagaard, moderator of the group on Structure Review, introduced the final report, recalling that the Executive had acted on the major part of the group's report at its meeting in February 1995. Those recommendations and an explanation of the process leading to them would have to be submitted to Central Committee for approval.

This draft paper was referred to the Programme Sub-committee, which at a later session, recommended that it be approved for submission to Central Committee. The Executive **agreed.** The substance of the paper is included in the following points:

A. Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

The question of the future location of Bossey within the structure, and the proposal that it be moved from Unit I to the General Secretariat, had not been acted on by the Executive in February because it wished to allow time for further debate. Since then, papers had been received both from the Unit I Commission and the interim Bossey Board. The Officers had considered the matter in May and decided to bring a recommendation to the Executive Committee supporting the view of the Structure Review Group. If approved, this recommendation would be forwarded to the Central Committee:

1. *that the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, be moved from Unit I to come under the direct responsibility of the General Secretariat;*
2. *that the Director of Bossey report through the Deputy General Secretary (Programmes);*

3. *that the Bossey Board report to the Central Committee through the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat Committee, and*
4. *that the rules, regulations and by-laws of the Council be amended accordingly.*

Dr Tsetsis, noting that there were two opposed views on the matter, wondered how a confrontation in Central Committee could be avoided?

Dr Tolen reiterated the earlier argument during the structural reorganisation in 1991 which supported Bossey being placed in Unit I, where he remained convinced that it could make a more active contribution to the Unit's work. The argument that Bossey served the whole Council was in his view inappropriate: all Units serve the whole Council. Any problems in the running of Bossey should be handled by the Commission or the General Secretary. He was hesitant about moving Bossey to the General Secretariat, which would open up the General Secretariat for programme activities rather than its intended task of coordination.

Dr Kässmann on the other hand felt that the Executive had asked for and received advice from two groups whose opinions differed. She believed that the original recommendation of the Structure Review Group should be accepted.

The General Secretary described the various steps he had taken in attempting to reconcile the deeply divided opinions, and admitted to failure. However, he felt that the existing problems were more likely to be resolved in the framework of the General Secretariat. It would be difficult to avoid a divided opinion in Central Committee but he hoped the debate would be open and that a decision would be made that could be accepted by both sides.

The Executive Committee **voted in favour** of the above recommendations.

The matter would be discussed in both General Secretariat and Unit I Committees. Should there be divided advice, it may be necessary to call an extraordinary meeting of the Executive to reconsider its recommendation to Central Committee in the light of the further advice received (see p.32 ff).

B. Rules of Debate

In February 1995 the Executive Committee approved some minor changes to the Rules of Debate. These would also be submitted as recommendations to the Central Committee for action.

Prof. Aagaard asked whether members of Central Committee could be expected to go into the detail required to deal with the proposed **changes in the Rules,** but the General Secretary pointed out such changes specifically required action by Central Committee. The main work on this had been done at the previous meeting in January 1994; only a few items required action at this time.

C. By-Laws of Faith and Order

At its meeting in January 1994, the Central Committee approved revised By-Laws for the Council "except for the By-Laws for Faith and Order contained in section VI.A, for which final approval will be sought at the Central Committee meeting in 1995" (1994 minutes p.140, and Appendix IV). After consultation with the members of the Plenary Commission, as required by the existing By-Laws of Faith and Order, the Commission had formally approved the proposed amendments, for which final approval must now be sought from the Central Committee.

D. Towards a simplification of the staffing procedures

In February 1995, the Executive Committee encouraged the General Secretary "to develop an aide-memoire on guidelines for the implementation of current procedures in a simpler way while ensuring clear accountability. Such a document could be minuted by the Executive Committee and serve as an interpretation of the procedures." (minutes p.35).

Current staffing procedures for Grades 7-10 were approved by Central Committee at its meeting in August 1992 (minutes, Appendix IV, pp.149 ff.) and have been implemented since then. Although requiring substantial paper work, the procedures had proved to be satisfactory and capable of achieving their purpose.

It was the responsibility of the General Secretary, through the Personnel Office, to ensure that only those applications that strictly corresponded to the qualifications and specific requirements requested in the vacancy notice be submitted for study and recommendation to the members of the appropriate screening groups. This would help to focus the search more intentionally.

E. Reprint of Constitutional documents

Once Central Committee had approved the changes indicated above, a revised version of the "Constitution, Rules, Regulations and By-Laws of the Council" would be produced, since the former version was out of date.

F. Other Business Matters: - Singapore Airlines

At the end of 1987, the Singapore Government expelled the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) from its headquarters in Singapore. At its meeting in Hanover in 1988, the Central Committee took a number of actions in protest against this expulsion (minutes p.40-ff), including a decision to recommend "that churches and their related agencies consider abstaining from using Singapore Airlines and from holding ecumenical meetings in Singapore until (a) there is a guarantee from the Singapore government that all accredited delegates are allowed to enter the country; (b) there is a guarantee of freedom of the press in Singapore;"

Seven years having passed since this action was taken, the CCA at its Assembly in June 1995 resolved that, "in view of the priority of rebuilding closer relationships with the churches in Singapore towards their eventual full, active and visible participation in the life of the ecumenical movement in Asia and the CCA in particular", and "in order to foster the rebuilding of relationships and the revival of full membership of the Singapore churches in the CCA, it is proposed that the General Assembly revoke its symbolic boycott of Singapore Airlines and the ban on the holding of ecumenical meetings in Singapore, effective immediately."

The Executive Committee **decided** to make a similar recommendation to Central Committee as follows:

that the Central Committee, noting the decision of CCA to revoke its boycott of Singapore Airlines and its ban on the holding of ecumenical meetings in Singapore, effective immediately, in order to foster the rebuilding of relationships and the revival of full membership of the Singapore churches in the CCA, resolves to rescind its resolution of 1988 regarding Singapore.

- Shell Oil Corporation

At the same meeting of Central Committee in 1988 there was a discussion on the situation in Southern Africa. Attention was drawn to the international campaign to boycott Shell as part of the process to bring pressure to bear on the South African government over its repressive policies in South Africa and Namibia. It was agreed (minutes p.47) to encourage "the churches to support the international campaign to boycott the Shell Oil Corporation."

In light of the changed situation in Southern Africa and the lifting of all sanctions and other financial and economic pressure to end apartheid by Central Committee

in January 1994 (minutes, Johannesburg, p.111), it was suggested that the Shell boycott might also be lifted at this time; it could in fact be held to have been included in the Johannesburg resolution.

The Executive Committee **agreed**.

The document was referred to the Programme Sub-committee. At a later session, Ms Ritchie reported the Sub-committee's recommendation: that the Executive Committee adopt the paper, and approve the draft of a document for action by Central Committee. This was **agreed**.

9. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Nababan, presiding, invited the moderator of the Finance Sub-committee, Ms Birgitta Rantakari, to present the report.

Ms Rantakari referred to the fact that once again the Council was facing financial difficulties, but lessons had been learned in the period since Canberra and the Council was in a better position than in 1991 to face the present situation and to plan towards the Eighth Assembly. Nevertheless the process was likely to be a painful one, the matter of particular concern being the overall downward trend in income.

A. Financial update

Mr Davies reminded the Committee of the drastic measures taken in 1991-1992 to put the Council back into financial equilibrium, including the Cambridge Report, re-structuring, the reduction of 20% in staff, the introduction of fixed budget exchange rates, a new "dynamic" investment policy and strict expenditure controls. Throughout this process, there had been a strong emphasis on the importance of relating programmatic decision-making with the resources available.

The Council returned to financial equilibrium and had modest increases in funds in the period 1991-1993. Income development became a priority, the "shared costs" problem had been successfully addressed and new, more transparent accounting policies had been introduced. However, the latter coincided with a bad year financially, largely due to exchange rate difficulties, poor investment returns and a slight decline in overall donor contributions. Fortunately the funds and reserves built up had so far enabled the Council to surmount these difficulties without drastic action. However, Mr Davies asked the Committee to note that:

1. the Council was currently experiencing what he hoped would be a short term fluctuation in its fortunes and had the resources and the will to deal with the immediate results of this;
2. a much more serious, fundamental downward trend in income had now been confirmed (see Financial Report pp 16-18) which required serious attention. Questions needed to be asked about the nature and style of the Council's work in the next period in view of the declining resources provided by churches and donor agencies.

Although many of the immediate concerns were already being addressed by staff action, and the effects of the short term fluctuation could be handled, Mr Davies asked that the longer term issues relating to declining support and resources be addressed, not only in the Finance Committees, but by the governing bodies as a whole.

B. Staff review process

Ms Mary Ann Lundy spoke about her work both in the area of programme co-ordination and as moderator of the budget review group. Besides working with the Unit Directors in seeking programmatic priorities, a small staff group had been set up to look at budgets, particularly those within the General Secretariat. A first round of "savings" had been identified and incorporated in the revised budgets, while a programme of continuing work was planned with a view to reporting to the Executive in March 1996.

C. 1994 Financial Report and Accounts

Mr Pettingell presented the Financial Report in its new format, noting its greater transparency and the simpler style of the accounts with more detailed notes. Due to the factors indicated, the figures were disappointing and showed a substantial reduction in total funds from CHF 112 million in 1993 to CHF 88 million in 1994. In the General Funds the operating shortfall had been CHF 3.4 million, whilst CHF 9.1 million represented losses on exchange and decline in investment values (though some of this was unrealised and had been recovered since). CHF 1.8 million of the Exchange Equalisation Reserve (EER) had to be used for the first time to compensate Units for a shortfall in income which came in below the long term budget rates (CHF 1.5 = US$, 0.9 = DM and 0.2 = SKr).

D. Budgets 1995-1997

Mr Davies presented the revised 1995 budget. On the advice of the Investment Advisory Group (IAG) the long term budget rates had been adjusted to CHF 1.35 = US$, 0.85 = DM and 0.18 = SKr. A shortfall of CHF 5.3 million was

indicated, but staff had identified savings of CHF 2.6 million. Units II, III and IV fund balances could absorb CHF 1.4 million, leaving a shortfall of CHF 1.3 million to be taken from the Council's General Reserve (currently standing at CHF 6.3 million). Since the exchange rates had still not risen to these revised levels after the low in March 1995, it was envisaged that the Exchange Equalisation Reserve would again have to be used to compensate.

For the **revised 1996 budget**, using the same exchange rates, the shortfall (adjusted for the approved 5% staff "balanced budget allowance") would amount to CHF 2.8 million. Of this, CHF 229,000 could be drawn from Units II, III and IV fund balances, leaving a UDI shortfall of CHF 2.6 million. If the budget were based on exchange rates at July 31, 1995, the overall shortfall would rise to CHF 3.7 million, of which CHF 3 million would be in UDI.

The **1997 provisional budget**, which the Committee was obliged by the Rules of the Council to present to Central Committee, was considered to be too uncertain at this point. Based on the long-term exchange rates and assuming continuation of present trends, the shortfall would be in the region of CHF 6.5 million - 2.7 million in Units II, III and IV and 3.8 million in UDI.

It was clear that, unless there was a prompt improvement in the real income situation, significant reductions in expenditure would be necessary during the next two years to avoid the reserves and funds of the Council being reduced to too low a level. The Committee received assurances that staff were actively addressing these matters and hoped that the Unit and General Secretariat Committees would take the situation into account in their work.

E. Income projections and donor trends

Mr Rath presented the report of OICD. For 1994, the General (accounts) income of the Units came in as predicted, but about CHF 1.9 million below budget. Total General (programme) income for the Units amounted to CHF 20.172 million, of which Unit I accounted for CHF 2.569 million (CHF 285,500 below budget), Unit II CHF 4.658 million (1.132 million below budget), Unit III CHF 5.246 million (1.131 below budget) and Unit IV CHF 7.698 million (1.175 million below budget).

Some 38% of the loss in the Units' general income (CHF 3.275 million) was due to fluctuation in exchange rates, 12.8% of the losses occurred because of donor contribution reductions, 45% of the total loss were losses because of negative returns on investment income and 4.2% of the total loss was due to other reasons.

The income in **membership contributions** and other **undesignated givings** also dropped between 1993 and 1994. Whereas in 1993 the Council had received some CHF 6.649 million in UDI, the actual UDI income in 1994 was only CHF 6.365, (some CHF 284,000 less then in 1993).

With regard to more specific **income projections,** OICD's current projections were based on the 22 most important contributors to WCC programmes and activities. In 1994 the income received for general accounts of the units totalled CHF 20.172 million. For 1995 OICD was predicting an income reduction in the general accounts (budgeted versus actuals) of approximately 3.5 to 5% and for 1996 (compared to 1995), a drop of 2.5 to 4% in the general income at budget rates.

It was pointed out that currently OICD was responsible for the Council's financial relationships with member churches, church related and government agencies and other sponsors of activities, who annually contribute some CHF 40 million to WCC programmes and activities. Whilst in the past it was possible to obtain, year by year, more funds in D. Marks, US dollars, Swedish kronor and Dutch florins, the situation had changed in that simply maintaining funding levels could be described as a success for OICD.

With the extremely low exchange rates for its major currencies, the Council was facing a situation whereby less income was received in Swiss francs even though some donors may have advanced more funds in the current year than in the previous year. Unless new sources of income could be identified and drawn upon, the Council would have to take a falling rate of income into its budget considerations. Thus, expenditure budgets for 1996 and 1997 would have to be brought in line with these realities until more favourable exchange rates and improved giving situations from the WCC's member churches were in view.

Dr Kässmann expressed concern that the IAG's advice did not seem to be helpful to the Council. The General Secretary reassured her that the work of IAG had been carefully evaluated and the opinion was that three years was too short to give a definitive judgement as to whether the methods being followed were advisable in the long term. He admitted that the present situation was a source of great concern to SEG, and efforts were being made to respond, but at this point no clear answer could be given about the steps that need to be taken.

Mr Davies recalled that the possibility of setting up an investment income equalisation fund had been mentioned: this had not yet been done because SEG had initiated an investigation of forward transaction policy which should be ready for

presentation to the FSC in March 1996. Meanwhile, investment results for 1995 had come into the positive and hopefully this trend would continue.

Ms Rantakari added that the FSC was concerned about whether its policies were correct. She would convene a group during Central Committee to draw on the financial expertise available in order to address this issue.

Prof. Aagaard pointed out that the worrying matter that required discussion was the downward trend in the churches' giving. How could the Central Committee be helped to face this problem? Dr Kässmann agreed, but emphasised the need for a policy decision on whether to continue with investments or move into savings accounts with fixed interest.

The General Secretary urged the Moderator of the Finance Committee, in her preliminary report to Central Committee, to highlight the fact that the Council was facing a basic decision: should the WCC remain a body that lives through the contributions of its member churches, or should it become a fund-raising NGO that seeks sponsoring from business enterprises and submits to the criteria of the public funding market? If the present trend continued and support from member churches became increasingly marginal, then a critical change in the nature of the Council would have taken place.

According to the General Secretary, the question the churches must answer was: what kind of Council do they want? It had to be recognised that most of the traditional donor churches were in financial difficulties themselves, so there must be some sharing in solidarity with them also. Should the churches resign themselves to the fact that there was a downward trend, or should it be seen as a common responsibility not to allow that trend to become permanent? That challenge would have to be interpreted to the Central Committee.

It was agreed that this point be stressed through the report of the Finance Committee Moderator as well as by the Moderator and the General Secretary.

The following recommendations were **agreed**: the Executive Committee:

1. ***received*** *the 1994 Financial report and accounts and forwarded them to the Central Committee for approval;*
2. ***noted*** *the review of the 1995 budget and asked all Units and Offices to make every effort to contain expenditure within the resources available during the current year;*

3. ***received*** *the revised 1996 budget and* ***recommended*** *that it be forwarded to the Central Committee and accepted provisionally on the understanding that further work would be done by staff to identify savings and present a further revision of the 1996 budget, in which the overall shortfall would be greatly reduced or eliminated, to the Executive Committee in March 1996;*

4. ***noted*** *the preliminary 1997 budget but felt that it was too provisional to be forwarded to Central Committee. Staff were asked to bring a revised version for consideration in March 1996;*

5. *in light of the current financial situation,* ***recommended*** *that Central Committees be held in Geneva in the period until the Eighth Assembly;*

6. ***drew the attention*** *of the Unit and General Secretariat Committees to the steadily reducing resources available to the Council in real terms and* ***asked*** *that they take this factor into account in their planning and prioritising and in any recommendations they bring to Central Committee;*

7. ***noted*** *the concern of the Finance Sub-committee regarding the long term reduction in the Council's income and particularly in undesignated, member church contributions and* ***asked*** *that those responsible for the Common Understanding and Vision process take this into account in their formulation of plans for the future of the Council.*

F. Income Development - Ecumenical Development Initiative (EDI)

Reports were presented, including one on the evaluation meeting in New York in July. The event in honour of Archbishop Iakovos had been a success, though fundraising, for ecumenical ministries in particular, was currently difficult in the USA because of "right wing" tendencies in church and community. Some $ 4 million had been raised or pledged and there was confidence that EDI would go forward, though under-resourced for its task.

Bishop Anderson asked whether any of the money received had been placed in an endowment fund and expressed concern that the project be transparent.

8. *The Executive Committee* ***noted*** *the report on the Ecumenical Development Initiative (EDI) in the USA,* ***welcomed*** *the success of the Archbishop Iakovos celebration event in February 1995 and* ***recommended*** *that:*
   a) *EDI should continue for a further period, at least until the Eighth Assembly of the WCC, as a joint venture with the NCCCUSA,*

b) *the WCC should continue to make funding available on the existing basis (US $120,000 per annum) until 31 December 1998,*

c) *the governance of EDI should remain in the hands of the two general secretaries and be exercised as they determine, and that the Finance Sub-committee of the Executive Committee should appoint representatives to participate in a small group jointly with the NCCCUSA to meet at least once a year to consider the plans and goals of EDI and to monitor progress in achieving them.*

Mr Davies indicated that the proposed WCC funding would come from the Income Development Fund, not from the Council's normal revenue budget.

G. Member church contributions

It was reported that OICD had continued its efforts to intensify communication with member churches regarding membership contributions. A new **Giving Index** had been developed, ranking all member churches according to their actual giving, size and national wealth of the respective country (Gross National Product per capita = GNP). The index had been updated with the latest audited figures from the list of the 1994 membership contributions. The Giving Index would allow OICD to determine the average giving according to the median (weighted average). There were three categories of member church contributions: above average, below average, and those which give nothing. The Index was not a perfect tool nor a fully just approach to determine the "fair share" of a member church but it did highlight those churches which are small, which are in a low income country, yet contribute a significant amount. The system automatically calculated the contribution desired from each of these three groups according to size and national wealth.

Mr Rath explained that some churches were located in poorer areas and did not reflect the GNP of their country, so individual negotiations were necessary.

In connection with the following recommendation by the Finance Sub-committee,

"that the Executive Committee suggests that churches should make a **minimum contribution** of CHF 1,000 per annum from 1996 in order to qualify for voting rights at the Eighth Assembly and to be eligible for subsidies for travel and accommodation for representatives attending the Assembly and meetings of governing bodies",

there was some discussion on the question of eligibility for travel subsidies for attendance at meetings. It was pointed out that no church had a right to claim a

subsidy, and a church that made no effort to make a minimum contribution had less right to expect support than those which did contribute, however minimally.

Mr Briggs proposed replacing the phrase "to qualify for voting rights at the Eighth Assembly" by "for its representatives to be eligible for office or election to the governing bodies of the Council". Dr Kässmann did not agree and moved that the whole phrase be deleted. But, said Mr Briggs, it would cause problems if some of those elected to the new Central Committee did not qualify for a subsidy to attend its meetings.

In order to avoid the terminology "not eligible", Dr Nababan proposed a re-wording of the recommendation as follows:

> "the Executive Committee informs all member churches that unless they contribute the minimum agreed amount, they cannot expect subsidies for travel and accommodation for representatives attending the assembly".

The General Secretary pointed out that the Executive did not normally "inform member churches", but it could suggest that the Central Committee so inform them.

The Moderator invited members to vote on the revised amendment:

> "The Executive Committee suggests to Central Committee that all member churches be informed that, unless they contribute the minimum agreed amount, they cannot expect to be eligible for subsidies for travel and accommodation for their representatives attending the Eighth Assembly" (cf.rec.11, p.19).

This was carried by 8 votes in favour, 6 against.

It was noted that the **Membership Reminder System (MRS)** had been in operation for over a year. It was still too early to evaluate it but it was a valuable communications tool and would keep churches aware of their responsibilities. Twenty-one more churches paid a contribution in 1994 (147) compared to 1993 (126). The number of non-payers in 1994 (166 or 52% of the total membership) remained high, but with the percentage of non-payers in 1993 at 61% (194), some progress was being made.

OICD was asked to pursue the possibility that, whilst some churches may be unable to increase their giving from their ordinary revenue budget, they may have substantial capital assets and might be persuaded to contribute from these.

In the light of discussions on criteria for membership and recommendations arising from the Financial Consultation in February 1995, the Finance Sub-Committee felt that more explicit rules should be made regarding financial contributions.

The following recommendations were **agreed** as amended:

The Executive Committee:

9. ***welcomed*** *the systematic approach to membership contributions instituted by OICD, based on the "giving index" formula proposed by OICD and* ***approved*** *it as a guideline and tool for the assessment and collection of membership contributions;*

10. *further* ***agreed*** *that a minimum membership contribution be made by each church as part of its responsibilities of membership of the Council; that CHF 1000 per annum be the minimum; and that churches which cannot comply with the amount requested according to the giving index be asked to contribute a minimum between CHF 1000 and that amount to be determined in negotiation with OICD;*

11. ***suggested*** *to Central Committee that all member churches be informed that, unless they contribute the minimum agreed amount, they cannot expect to be eligible for subsidies for travel and accommodation for their representatives attending the Eighth Assembly.*

H. Other Income Development Activities

Mr Rath reported that OICD had continued to work with the Units on standardised reports, with some good results. The Office coordinated about 15 annual funding requests and reports to major donors. The Resource Sharing Book, which includes programme descriptions submitted by the Units valid for the coming year, as well as information on the previous year's activities, was the basis for all the Council's requests and reports compiled by OICD. Since fund-raising, communication and information-sharing go hand in hand, OICD was challenged to develop materials which explain the WCC's endeavours in an uncomplicated and effective way.

OICD had taken the initiative to explore new funding sources in Asia (reported to the Executive in February 1995) and Europe (Germany and UK). It was hoped that there would be further developments in Korea following the General Secretary's recent visit.

The Executive Committee

12. ***noted*** *the new initiatives taken by OICD,* ***encouraged*** *continued development along the lines indicated, and* ***drew the attention*** *of Central Committee to the need for renewed efforts to develop the Council's income in every way possible.*

13. ***agreed*** *that an Advisory Group on Income Development (AGID) be established as recommended by the Finance Consultation as a resource for OICD. The Officers were authorised to approve the membership once it had been finalised.*

I. Special Funding

Ms Langerak reported on funding for the World Mission Conference. Although not strictly a Special Funding event, it had been necessary to increase the budget because of additional expenses relating to the Brazilian venue. Unit II had made this a top priority and was willing to commit all available funds to the Conference.

J. Eighth Assembly

It was reported that a number of pledges had so far been contributed towards an asking of CHF 6.5 million. The budget was approved by the Sub-committee. It was seen as important to carry forward a balance of at least CHF 1 million towards the preliminary expenses of the Ninth Assembly. Staff were asked to review the policy of charging executive staff travel to the Council's general budget rather than to the Assembly budget and to report at the next meeting whether a change in policy was possible. The change in venue to the University of Harare was welcomed since this would cost less and simplify the budgeting process.

The Executive Committee:

14. ***accepted*** *the Third Draft Budget for the Eighth Assembly (June 1995) based on an anticipated expenditure of CHF 12 million;*

15. ***asked*** *Central Committee to note the report on pledging for the Eighth Assembly, and:*
    a) *asked members to ensure that the churches they represent have responded to the request for a pledged contribution to the Assembly budget,*
    b) *urged all member churches which have not already done so to send their pledge as soon as possible, and*
    c) *reminded those churches which have pledged that it would be helpful if they would send payments as early as possible to enable the Council to meet expenses which have already begun to arise.*

J. New accounting and computer arrangements

It was reported that the new systems were now fully operational and the consultants had withdrawn except for a few special projects. A staff Scala management team had been set up.

K. Donors' Consultation on Finances, February 1995

The Sub-committee considered the report of the Consultation, noting its recommendations and the fact that action was being taken on a number of them.

In response to a request for further information on this consultation, Mr Davies said there was a feeling that progress had been made but improvement was still required in the Council's communication with its member churches. The question of a minimum level of member church contribution was discussed and had been taken up in the framework of the work being done regarding criteria for membership. Donors felt it would be helpful for OICD to have an advisory group (see above). They urged that more thought be given to the question of fluctuation of exchange rates and how to deal with this. The churches needed to be challenged to safeguard the WCC's core budget.

L. Audit Consultation, March 1995

The Sub-committee received the report of this Consultation which had proved worthwhile, but its recommendations would be very demanding on the Council. It suggested to the Audit Committee that the follow-up Consultation proposed for November 1995 be deferred until 1996 and asked for a full report at the following Executive Committee meeting.

M. Audit Committee

The Committee had met in June and would meet again in September. The Sub-committee recommended, and the Executive Committee **agreed:**

16. *that Klynfeld Peat Marwick Goerdeler, SA, (KPMG), be reappointed auditors for the 1995 accounts of the World Council of Churches.*

Mr Briggs, moderator of the Audit Committee. pointed out that auditors were becoming more cautious than in the past in view of the development of international standards and the more complicated nature of financial issues. He was glad to report that the new team of auditors was an activist one, aware of the need for an organisation like the WCC to keep its operations transparent.

N. Investment Advisory Group

The IAG met in April and July. It reviewed the budget exchange rates which had

been used for the last four years and suggested revised rates for the Swiss franc of US$ = 1.35, DM = 0.85 and SKr = 0.18; these had been used for the 1995 review and 1996 revised budget. At the second meeting, whilst recognising that these rates still appear high in the light of current experience and no immediate likelihood of change was apparent, the rates were still deemed appropriate for longer term budgeting. Whilst the Council should try to contain its expenditure within a budget based on more conservative rates for the next year, it was felt to be inappropriate to revise the long term rates again at the present time.

After their poor performance in 1993, portfolios appeared to be picking up in 1995 and it was hoped there would be a positive result to the year with some investment income to distribute. The IAG warned however that markets would remain uncertain for some time.

A staff group on Investment and Exchange Policy had been set up and was working on a policy paper for presentation at the next meeting of the Finance Sub-committee. It was agreed that more detailed consideration of these matters be deferred until then.

The Sub-committee recommended, and the Executive Committee:

17. ***agreed*** *that Ms R.A. Weber be appointed a member of the Investment Advisory Group in place of Dr Thérèse Draper with effect from 1 October 1995;*

18. ***noted*** *the recommendation of the Investment Advisory Group that long term exchange rates for budget purposes be revised to CHF 1.35 for the US$, CHF 0.85 for the DM and CHF 0.18 for the SKr and* ***approved*** *these rates for budget purposes for 1995-98. However, it* ***expressed concern*** *that these rates seem unrealistic in the short term and* ***asked*** *the IAG and the finance staff to keep the exchange rates under regular review and to report immediately any trends which would significantly affect the Council's financial stability.*

O. Other reports

The Finance Sub-Committee received and accepted reports on the Retirement Fund, Property matters and Value Added Tax (TVA).

P. Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) proposal

The Sub-committee noted a proposal from the Unit III Commission that the Council increase its investment in EDCS to 10% of its general funds. Whilst the Sub-committee fully supported the work of EDCS (in the setting up of which the

WCC played a leading role), it believed that it would be unwise to increase WCC investment at this time when its general fund income was fully committed to the Council's own work and activities.

The Sub-committee *recommended* that the Executive Committee, whilst reaffirming its support for the work of EDCS, ask the Unit III Committee to defer presentation of the proposal to increase the Council's investment in EDCS in view of the Council's present shortfall in income to meet its own programmatic commitments.

Dr Kässmann said that the Unit III Commission had discussed this issue, conscious that WCC was a parent body of EDCS. A number of other church bodies had placed considerable investments with EDCS, and she felt the Council's credibility would suffer if it were known that it had a very low investment with EDCS. The suggestion was not for the Council to invest 10% but CHF 2 million (3%) of its total investments, 10% being a long-term goal. The Commission had looked at what the resulting shortfall might represent and felt it was perhaps equivalent to one consultation less, while EDCS was creating possibilities for jobs and investment in the third world. Unit III would therefore not defer presentation of its proposal.

Dr Tolen, who had been moderator of CCPD (Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development) at the time of the creation of EDCS, said that EDCS was seen as an alternative way of doing banking, not only looking at highest profits but at the promotion of justice. He was not prepared to support a motion to defer the Unit III proposal.

The Executive **voted against** the above recommendation, with 6 votes against, 5 in favour, and 3 abstentions.

The General Secretary pointed out that in due course this matter would have to be reconsidered by the Finance Sub-committee, and it would be necessary to set out the arguments for or against in a more careful way than had been the case so far.

Q. Unit I requests

The Sub-committee considered requests for funding from Unit I. It reaffirmed that, if any surplus undesignated income were available in 1995, priority would be given to an allocation to the Faith and Order Plenary Commission Fund. It commended the Unit for raising US$ 213,000 towards the budget of US$ 337,200 for the "Ministry, Ecumenical Theological Education, their Viability Today" Consultation in 1996; it was unable to recommend any allocation to this consul-

tation (since, in view of the shortfall in UDI, it would have to come from the Council's General Fund), but agreed to review the situation in March 1996, whilst encouraging the Unit to continue its quest for designated funding for this activity.

It referred the request for the establishment of the Differently Abled Consultancy as a core staff position in Unit I to the General Secretary, but reaffirmed that this should only be agreed when additional long-term funding were available to cover the cost. The Sub-committee noted the difficult situation of Unit I because of its dependence on UDI and, whilst reaffirming its belief that the Unit should be active in seeking new, designated funding for activities wherever possible, it also agreed that, where the Unit identified priority programmes, these should be considered against other priorities in the Council as a whole.

The Executive Committee **received the report of the Finance Sub-committee** with appreciation.

10. REPORT OF STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Soritua Nababan presented the report.

A. Staffing

The Executive Committee **recommended** that the Central Committee authorise the General Secretary to proceed with the following appointments and contract extensions, the legal obligations of the World Council of Churches to be binding only as from the actual signing by both parties of the corresponding contracts or contract extensions.

1. Appointments

Unit II

- Rev. Simon **Oxley** (UK, Baptist Union of Great Britain), as Executive Secretary for Education for four years from an agreed date

General Secretariat - Eighth Assembly Office

- Ms Pauline **McKay** (Aotearoa/New Zealand, Methodist Church), as Executive Secretary for three years five months from 1 November 1995

2. Contract Extensions

All the contract extensions listed below are for three years unless otherwise stated.

Unit I

- Rev. Dr Thomas **Best** (USA, Christian Church [Disciples of Christ]), Executive Secretary, from 1 January 1997 (will complete 16 years' service)
- Dr John **Pobee** (Ghana, Church of the Province of West Africa [Anglican]), Executive Secretary, from 1 February 1997 (will complete 16 years' service)

Unit II

- Mr Costandi **Mustaklem** (Jerusalem, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and All Palestine [Eastern]), Finance Officer, from 1 March 1997 (will complete 10 years' service)
- Ms Margareta **Skold** (Sweden, Church of Sweden), Executive Secretary, Health, for one year from 1 November 1996 (will complete 8 years' service)

Unit III

- Mr Israel **Batista-Guerra** (Cuba, Methodist Church in Cuba), Executive Secretary for Networks Coordination, from 1 February 1997 (will complete 13 years' service)
- Mr Clement **John** (Pakistan, Church of Pakistan), Executive Secretary, CCIA, from 1 February 1997 (will complete 7 years' service)
- Dr Deborah **Robinson** (USA, Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc.), Executive Secretary, Racial Justice Issues, from 1 January 1997 (will complete 7 years' service)

Unit IV

- Ms Joan **Geuss** (USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Finance Officer, from 1 January 1997 (will complete 7 years' service)
- Rev. Richard **Murigande** (Burundi, Methodist Church in Burundi), Executive Secretary for Africa, from 1 January 1997 (will complete 13 years' service)
- Ms Marta **Palma** (Chile, Pentecostal Mission Church), Executive Secretary for Latin America and Caribbean, from 1 October 1996 (will complete 13 years' service)

General Secretariat - Office of Church and Ecumenical Relations

- Mr Georges **Lemopoulos** (Turkey/Switzerland, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople [Eastern]), Executive Secretary, from 1 February 1997 (will complete 13 years' service)
- Mr Huibert **van Beek** (Netherlands, Swiss Protestant Church Federation), Executive Secretary, from 1 October 1996 (will complete 21 years 1 month's service)

- *Communication Department*
  - Mr Marlin **VanElderen** (USA, Christian Reformed Church in North America) Executive Editor, from 1 October 1996 (will complete 17 years' service)
- *Personnel Office*
  - Ms Angelica **Espinoza** (Chile, Roman Catholic), Associate Director, from 1 January 1997 (will complete 21 years 9 months' service)

3. Vacancies

Unit III

Executive Secretary, Director of the U.N. Headquarters Liaison Office
Executive Secretary, Youth

Unit IV

Executive Secretary, Africa Desk

General Secretariat - OICD

Associate Director

The Executive Committee **agreed** to give power to the Officers to fill urgent vacancies that must be filled prior to its next meeting.

It further **requested** that the Central Committee authorise the Executive Committee to fill urgent vacancies that must be filled prior the next meeting of Central Committee.

4. Information

Appointment by Officers

It was reported that the Officers, at their meeting in May 1995, made the following appointments (internal transfers):

General Secretariat
- Ms Irène **Duraffourd** (France, Roman Catholic Church), previously Administrative Assistant, as Finance Officer, on 1 July 1995
- Ms Margaret **Reid** (UK, Church of England [Anglican]), previously Finance Officer, as Finance Officer, Scala, on 1 July 1995

Arrivals

It was reported that the following staff members would take up, or had taken up, their appointments on the dates indicated:

Unit I

- Mr Peter **Bouteneff** (USA, Orthodox Church in America [Eastern]), as Executive Secretary, Faith and Order, on 1 July 1995

Unit IV

- Mr Hugh **McCullum** (Canada, United Church of Canada), as Emergencies and Rehabilitation, Information Coordinator, on 1 July 1995
- Ms Pamela **Greet** (Australia, Anglican Church), previously Consultant, as Executive Secretary for Emergencies Preparedness and Capacity Building, on 1 March 1995

Finance

- Mr John **Irwin** (UK,Church of England (Anglican)) as Chief Accountant designate, on 1 June 1995

Departures

It was reported that the following staff members would leave the service of the World Council of Churches on the dates indicated:

Unit IV

- Mr Lalashowi **Swai** (Tanzania, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania), Executive Secretary for Africa, on 29 February 1996 (will complete 16 years' service)

General Secretariat - Eighth Assembly Office

- Ms Carole **Anderson** (Australia, Uniting Church in Australia) Executive Secretary, on 31 December 1995 (will complete 1 year 7 months' service)

Consultants

a) It was reported that the following consultant was appointed by the General Secretary since the last Executive Committee meeting in February 1995:

Unit IV

Ms Deborah **Raper** (UK) as Consultant, African Drought Relief, Emergencies Desk for 1 year from 11 July 1995

b) It was reported that the following consultants will leave the service of the World Council of Churches on the date indicated:

Unit III

Rev. Daniel **Ntoni-Nzinga** (Angola, Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola) on 31 December 1995 (will complete 3 years' service)

General Secretariat - OICD

Ms Yvonne **Favre-Bulle** (India, Roman Catholic Church) Associate Director, on 31 October 1995 (will complete 1 year's service)

B. Applications for Membership

On recommendation of the Sub-committee, the Executive Committee **agreed** to recommend to the Central Committee (in addition to those approved at its meeting in Bucharest) that the following churches be accepted as full members of the World Council of Churches:

Africa	**Evangelical Reformed Church of Angola.**
	Uniting Reformed Church in South Africa
Asia	**Protestant Church in Sabah (PCS), Malaysia**
Caribbean	**Jamaica Baptist Union**
Latin America	**Anglican Province of the Southern Cone** (Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay

The Executive Committee also **agreed** to recommend that the **National Council of Churches in Australia** be granted the status of associate council, which was held by its predecessor, the Australian Council of Churches.

C. Membership of Central Committee

On recommendation of the Sub-committee, the Executive Committee **recommended** that Central Committee appoint the following new members:

Bishop Eberhardt **Renz**, (EKD, Germany), replacing OKR Dr Walter Arnold

Rev. Dr Wesley **Granberg-Michaelson** (Reformed Church in America), replacing Dr Edwin Mulder

Rev. Duleep R. **Fernando** (Methodist Church, Sri Lanka), replacing Bishop Kingsley Muttiah

Ato Gezahegne **Yayneshate** (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church) replacing Dr Wolde Eyesus

Bishop **Lavrentije** (Serbian Orthodox Church), replacing Metr. Jovan Pavlovic

Dr Heinz **Rüegger** (Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches), replacing Dr Heinrich Rusterholz

Miss Silva **Ghazelyan** (Armenian Apostolic Church - Etchmiadzin), replacing Miss Nancy Basmajian

It was further reported that a woman member of Central Committee from the Latvian Lutheran Church had not attended any meetings of Central Committee. When invited to replace her with another woman, the Church had indicated that it did not wish to claim a place on Central Committee. A process should be initiated at the March meeting to allow the appointment of a replacement from the same region and confession but from another church.

D. Membership of Unit Committees
It was **agreed** that Mr John Briggs be appointed vice-moderator of the General Secretariat Committee in place of Mr Charles Ajalat.

It was further **agreed** that Ms Nenevi Seddoh be invited to act as moderator of Unit I Committee in the absence of Metropolitan Daniel, and that Dr Paul Crow be the vice-moderator for this meeting.

E. Membership of Public Issues Committee
A list of proposed names was approved for submission to Central Committee for appointment.

F. Membership of Finance Committee
It was **agreed** that Rev. Dr Wesley **Granberg-Michaelson** be appointed a member of the Finance Committee.

G. Membership of Unit III Commission
It was **agreed** that Mr Antoine **Haddad** (Lebanon, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch) and Dr Nemuel **Fajutagana** (Philippine Independent Church) be appointed members of the Unit III Commission, replacing two members who had resigned.

H. Membership of the Bossey Board
On recommendation of the Sub-committee, the Executive Committee **agreed** to recommend to Central Committee the appointment of the following persons as members of the Board of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey:

Dr Robert **Welsh** -- Moderator, Christian Church/Disciples, USA
Dr Elizabeth **Amoah**, Methodist Church, Ghana
Ms Tilisi **Bryce**, Anglican, Tonga
Rev. Wanda **Deifelt**, Lutheran Church, Brazil
Prof. Olivier **Fatio**, Reformed, Switzerland
Rev Rose **Hudson-Wilkin**, Church of England, UK
Rev. Ipe **Joseph**, Mar Thoma Church, India
Rev. Sirirat **Pusurinkham**, Church of Christ in Thailand (USA)
Rev. Kristin **Rossier**, Reformed, Switzerland
Rev. Constantin **Scouteris**, Church of Greece
Dr Baldwin **Sjollema**, Reformed, Netherlands/Switzerland
Dr Dietrich **Werner**, EKD, Germany
Archimandrite Nestor **Zhiliaev**, Russian Orthodox Church

Msgr. **Mutiso Mbinda**, RCC, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Rome
Dr Hans-Ruedi **Weber** (adviser), Reformed, Switzerland
Prof. Dr Hans **Visser 't Hooft**, (adviser), Reformed, Netherlands
ex officio: Director of Unit I
or: Deputy General Secretary for Programmes

I. Criteria for Membership

On recommendation of the Sub-committee, the Executive Committee **agreed** that the draft paper on **The Meaning of Membership**[1] be referred to the Central Committee with a recommendation that it be received and that its substance be incorporated into the process of the Common Understanding and Vision of the WCC (CUV).

J. Review of Rules on Membership and on Relationships with Partner Ecumenical Bodies

On recommendation of the Sub-committee, the Executive Committee **agreed** that the report on the review of Rules of Membership[2] and on Relationships with Partner Ecumenical Bodies be referred to Central Committee with a recommendation that it be received and that the proposed amendments and addenda to the Rules, as well as the new Rules XIII and XIV, be accepted.

The Executive Committee **received** the report of the Staffing and Nominations Sub-committee with appreciation.

K. Membership of Faith and Order Plenary Commission

At the extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee held on 19 September, the General Secretary brought an additional matter for the Committee's consideration in its function as Staffing and Nominations Committee of Central Committee.

The Faith and Order Plenary Commission was not appointed in its entirety at the meeting of the Central Committee in Canberra (February 1991), as it was felt that 20 places should be left vacant for persons involved in the World Conference that took place in Santiago de Compostela in August 1993. Since then, attempts had

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[1] see Minutes of Central Committee, September 1995

[2] ibid.

been made to seek additional members but the process is slow due to the special procedures required by Faith and Order.

As the Plenary Commission was scheduled to meet in August 1996, there was a request for approval of six additional members; other names would be brought to the Executive in March. Care would be taken to ensure that the required balances were observed.

The Executive Committee **agreed**, with one abstention, to bring the following names to Central Committee for approval:

Dr Silke-Petra **Bergjan** (Evang. Church of Berlin-Brandenburg [Presbyterian])
Mrs Christiane **Dieterle** (Reformed Church in France)
Rev. **Gao** Ying (China Christian Council)
Prof. Dr Susanne **Heine** (Evang. Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions in Austria)
Rev. László **Kallay** (Reformed Church in Romania)
Dekan Dr Werner **Schwartz** (Evang. Church of the Palatinate [United]), Germany

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1996:	5 - 10 March (arr.4, dep.11)		- Honiara, Solomon Islands
	10 - 11 September (arr.9)		- Geneva
	12 - 20 September (dep.21)	CC	- Geneva
1997:	12 - 15 February (arr.11, dep.16)		- Cyprus (?)
	9 - 10 September (arr.8)		- Geneva
	11 - 19 September (dep.20)	CC	- Geneva

The General Secretary explained that the plan to hold the 1997 Central Committee in Cyprus had had to be changed to Geneva for financial reasons. However, it was hoped that plans could be made for the Executive Committee to meet in Cyprus in February 1997.

Dates for the Executive in February/March 1998 had yet to be proposed.

12. CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator expressed thanks to members for their participation and to the General Secretary and staff for their assistance throughout the meeting. He then adjourned this session of the Executive Committee at midday on Wednesday 13 September. Bishop Talbert led the closing prayer.

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EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
held on 19 September 1995

In the absence of the Moderator, Dr Nababan chaired the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the presence of Dr Paul Crow representing the Unit I Committee and Dr Robert Welsh, moderator of the Bossey Board. The General Secretary explained that the Officers had decided to call this meeting to deal with the following items:

- Future place of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey within the WCC structure;
- Procedure relating to document on The Meaning of Membership;
- Follow-up on discussion in Central Committee on Zimbabwe situation;
- Assignments of stewards

A. Future location of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, in the WCC structure

Dr Crow reported as acting moderator on behalf of the Unit I Committee. The Committee had listened to the different views being expressed on this matter, and made every effort to evaluate the issues involved. It tried to focus on the nature of the Unit and the nature of Bossey and the role of both within the WCC.

Some of the major points that emerged were:
- the feeling that three years was too short a time on which to base a review and a longer period was necessary before making significant changes;
- any transfer of a stream from one unit to another at this stage would create a precedent and open the way for other similar initiatives;

- Bossey was seen by many as an essential part of the ministry of Unit I - they had a common theological task, distinct from that of other Units;
- the Bossey Board was the appropriate body to deal with the particular institutional needs of Bossey.

The Unit I Committee reaffirmed the recommendation of the Unit I Commission that Bossey remain in Unit I by 16 votes in favour, 4 against, and 2 abstentions.

Ms Gcabashe then reported as moderator of the General Secretariat Committee. There was some feeling that the process had been too quick, but there was also agreement with the decision at the time of restructuring that there would be an evaluation after three years. After hearing all the different views expressed, the General Secretariat Committee voted, with one abstention, to endorse the proposal that Bossey be moved back to the General Secretariat where it was formerly based.

Dr Nababan asked for advice from the Executive on how to prepare a recommendation that would enable the Central Committee to make a clear decision. But he urged members not to repeat the arguments that had been made in the previous discussions on the subject.

Several members expressed uncertainty as to how to act in view of the conflicting advice being given. It became clear that there were additional problems that had not been and probably should not be brought to the surface. But tensions had existed in the past also. Was the solution a matter of structural change, or would the same problems remain regardless of Bossey's location within the structure? Surely the issue at stake was not Bossey's location but the quality of its work - that was where the focus should lie.

It was proposed that the earlier decision of the Executive Committee - to recommend that Bossey be transferred from Unit I to the General Secretariat - be set out in a document for Central Committee together with the two rationales from Unit I and from the General Secretariat Committee. In view of the fact that the original request was that the "General Secretary bring proposals" about the future location of Bossey, it was felt that he should present the proposal to plenary on the basis of the process that had taken place.

Prof. Aagaard moved that the Executive Committee reaffirm its earlier decision. The Executive Committee **agreed**, by 11 votes in favour and 4 abstentions.

B. Procedure relating to document on The Meaning of Membership

The General Secretary reminded members that they had accepted a document on this subject for recommendation to Central Committee with the understanding that its substance be incorporated in the ongoing process of the Common Understanding and Vision of the Council (see p.30). It had therefore been referred to the General Secretariat Committee. A second document relating to a number of proposed changes in the Rules had also been referred and was acceptable.

However, the fact that the text on the Meaning of Membership was an account of the work of the small group that had met to consider the issue meant that the text included some points which the group felt it important to retain as a result of the renewed reflection about the significance of membership. Following the discussion in the General Secretariat Committee, the fear had been expressed by some Orthodox members of Central Committee that the paper, even if inadvertently, included some formulations with a potential ecclesiological implication that might be seen as contradicting some points in the Toronto Declaration. They had requested that this paper be withdrawn. However, at this stage it was too late to do that.

The Officers were therefore proposing that the recommendation of the General Secretariat Committee be interpreted in the sense that the document be received as a discussion paper to be shared with the member churches, inviting their response in the context of the consultation process in which the Council was engaged with them in relation to the Common Understanding and Vision process.

Fr Kishkovsky was grateful for the General Secretary's clear explanation, adding that in Unit I discussion, some non-Orthodox voices also expressed similar concern about taking action without some consultation with their churches.

The Executive Committee **agreed** to the Officers' proposal. It further noted that the recommendations for Rule changes would be circulated to Central Committee in time to provide the required 24 hours' notice.

C. Follow-up to Central Committee discussion on Zimbabwe

The General Secretary indicated that, further to the discussion so far, he was proposing to prepare the outline of a memorandum of understanding which Bishop Siyachetema and Mr Kuchera could take back to the Zimbabwe authorities. A list of key elements had been drawn up and was being checked with colleagues.

D. Assignment of Stewards

Bishop Gomez spoke of a concern that had been brought to his attention about the assignment of some stewards to the kitchen, and he wondered whether they knew beforehand the kind of tasks they would be expected to carry out.

The General Secretary enumerated the different areas that stewards were asked to cover, acknowledging that these varied and some were more interesting assignments than others. However, efforts were always made to plan a stewards' programme independently of their assignment during Central Committee so that all received opportunity to profit from the experience.

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APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

Presidents:	Prof. Dr Anna-Marie Aagaard	
	Bishop Vinton R. Anderson	
	Ms Priyanka Mendis	
	His Beatitude Patriarch Parthenios	
	Dr Aaron Tolen	
Officers:	His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia	(Moderator)
	Ephorus Dr Soritua Nababan	(Vice-Moderator)
	Pastora Nélida Ritchie	(Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Konrad Raiser	(General Secretary)
Members:	Mr John Briggs	
	Ms Virginia Gcabashe	
	Rt Rev. Drexel Gomez	
	Rev. Dr Margot Kässmann	
	Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky	
	Ms Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddo	
	Rev. Valamotu Palu	
	Ms Birgitta Rantakari	
	Bishop Melvin G. Talbert	
	Very Rev. Dr Georges Tsetsis	
	Rt Rev. Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilos	
Apologies:	Bishop Leslie Boseto	
	Rev. Eunice Santana	
	His Holiness Pope Shenouda	
	Ms Marion Best	
	Metropolitan Daniel of Moldavia and Bukovina	
	Ms Beatrice Danquah	
	Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk	
	Rt Rev. Dr J. Henry Okullu	
Substitute:	Archimandrite Nestor Zhiliaev	

Staff:
Ms Carole Anderson *
Rev. Dr S. Wesley Ariarajah
Ms Jeanne Becher
Mr Huibert van Beek *
Rev. Myra Blyth
Rev. Michael Davies
Rev. Dwain Epps
Rev. Dr Thomas FitzGerald
Ms Aruna Gnanadason
Mr Samuel Isaac
Rev. Samuel Kobia
Mr Jan Kok
Rev. Ana Langerak
Mr Georges Lemopoulos
Ms Mary Ann Lundy
Rev. John Newbury (Communication)
Rev. Ofelia Ortega
Rev. Hugh Pettingell
Mr Günter Rath *
Rev. Carlos Sintado
Ms Jean Stromberg

(* attended part-time for programmatic presentations)

Minute-writer: Ms Rosemary Green

Administration: Ms Ursula Zierl

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Ephorus Dr Soritua Nababan	Moderator
Ms Marion Best	(absent)
Mr John Briggs	
Ms Virginia Gcabashe	
Bishop Drexel Gomez	
Metr. Kirill of Smolensk	(absent)
His Beatitude Parthenios	
Rev. Valamotu Palu	

Sub-committee on Finance

Ms Birgitta Rantakari	Moderator
Prof. Anne-Marie Aagaard	
Bishop Vinton Anderson	
Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky	
Ms Maryssa Mapanao-Cammado	
Bishop Henry Okullu	(absent)
Rev. Eunice Santana	(absent)
Bishop Melvin Talbert	

Sub-committee on Programme

Rev. Nélida Ritchie	Moderator
Bishop Leslie Boseto	(absent)
Metr. Daniel of Moldavia	(absent)
Ms Beatrice Danquah	(absent)
Dr Margot Kässmann	
Ms Priyanka Mendis	
H.H. Pope Shenouda	(absent)
Dr Aaron Tolen	
Dr Georges Tsetsis	
Bishop Zacharias Mar Theophilos	